

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Release 3/8/60

Week Ending 3/7/60

WEATHER Temperatures averaged 25 degrees to 30 degrees below normal over the State. This was the coldest week in several years. Severe cold prevailed until the end of the week, when there was slight moderation in the east, and considerable in the west. Light snows fell on several days at all stations. There were only light to moderate winds, so drifting was not severe. The ground in the eastern and southern portions of the State is covered by 8 to over 15 inches of snow.

February was cold and snowy. This was the coldest February since 1936 over much of the central and eastern portions of the State. The first week was warm, but temperatures continued to fall during the month, and the coldest weather occurred during the final week. Snowfall ranged from very heavy in the southwest to slightly below the long term mean in the northeast. The average precipitation in the southwest was more than four times the long term mean.

CROPS Snow cover at the end of last week ranged from an inch in the extreme west to about 2 feet in some parts of the southwest and a foot or more in many south central and eastern counties. For the most part, winter grains were protected by snow during the sub-zero temperatures experienced during the week.

Heavy snow continued to hamper farm work and hinder livestock care. Hay and forage reserves were being reduced rapidly in most areas because field foraging and pasturing was virtually halted over much of the State. Demand for hay and forage is increasing as supplies run short for many producers. Prices of hay have been moving upward and straw is in strong demand locally. Stockmen have been hard pressed to move hay and feed through heavy snow and huge drifts, and they anticipate continued difficulty as snow gives way to mud when normal temperatures return. Some have been moving hay and feed supplies over frozen surfaces to more convenient places near their livestock to lessen later difficulty expected with excessive mud.

Spring planting is expected to be delayed because of wet fields after the snow melts. It may be several weeks before planting can be started in many eastern areas.

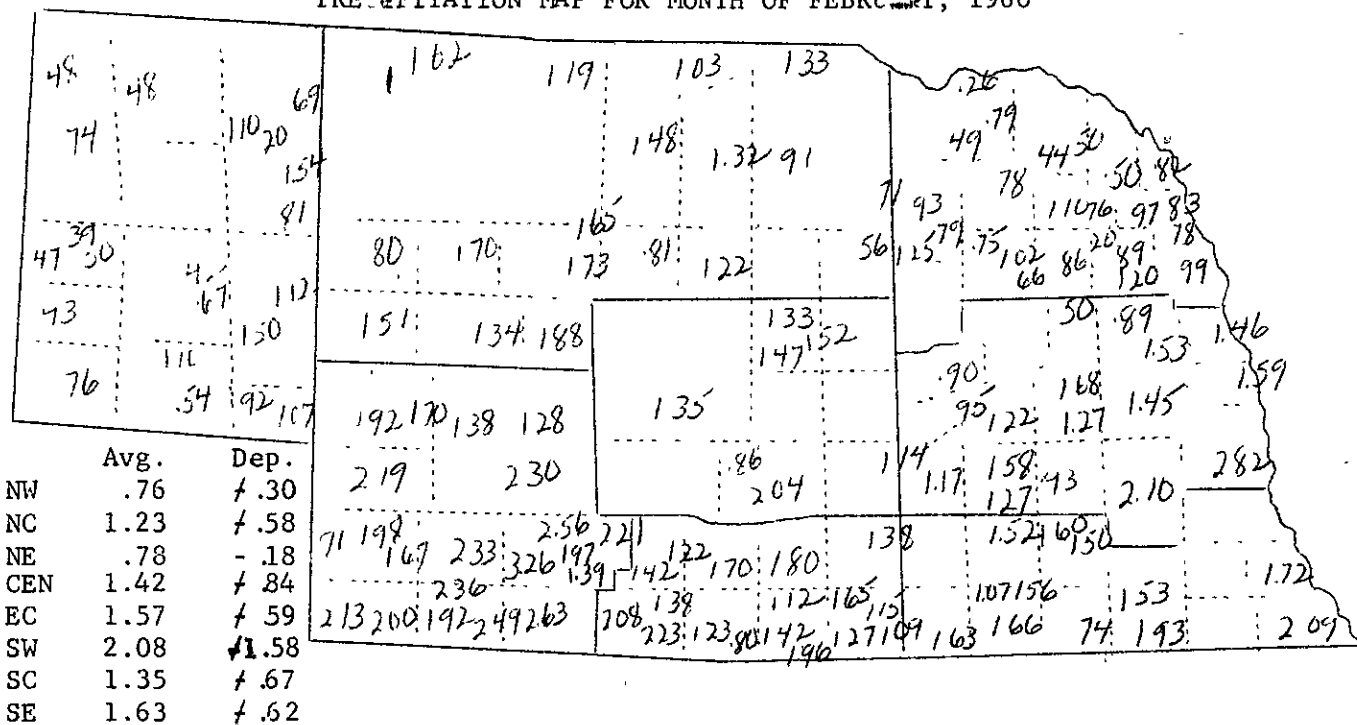
LIVESTOCK The long cold spell, climaxed by sub-zero temperatures last week, has been severe on livestock. Heavier than usual losses of new crop calves and pigs have been experienced. Losses of cows due to excessive cold and poor feeding conditions have been noted. Calving is increasing seasonally and close attention and care is being devoted to the new crop to hold down losses from exposure and other causes.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves into Nebraska during February were substantially below the number shipped in during February 1959. The February 1960 number was 44,000 head, the smallest since 1957. A year ago 72,000 cattle and calves were shipped into the State. So far this year, in shipments total 99,000 head. A year earlier, they were 150,000 for the 2 months. Sheep and lamb arrivals during February totaled 30,000 head compared with 25,000 head in February 1959. Since January 1, 45,000 head have been shipped into the State compared with 42,000 for the first two months in 1959.

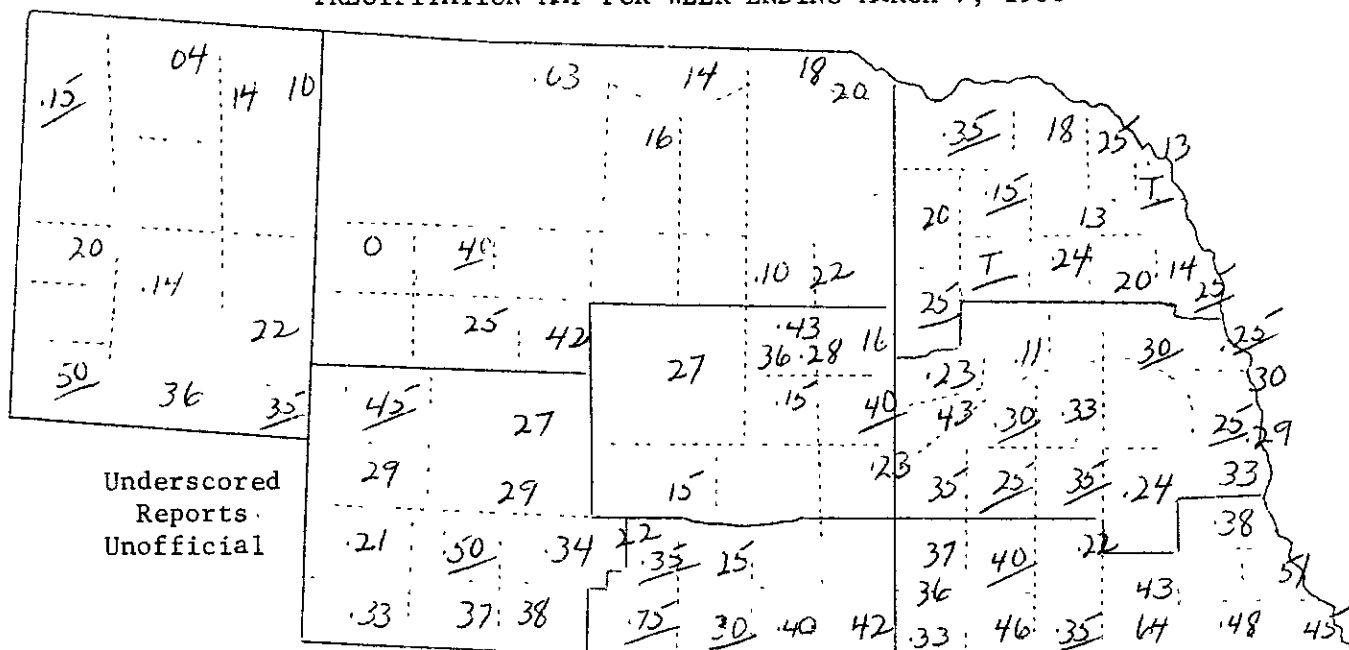
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 1960

<u>East</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>West</u>	
Grand Island	.20	Burwell	T	Chadron	.04
Lincoln	.27	North Platte	.26	Imperial	.10
Norfolk	.37	Valentine	.05	Scottsbluff	.13
Omaha	.35			Sidney	.22
Sioux City	.15				

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1960



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 7, 1960



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURE (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m. and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		March 1st		2nd		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	29	3	9	- 4	8	-19	2	- 9	18	5	30	6	23	6
	Scottsbluff	28	9	18	- 2	12	-16	7	- 3	13	6	33	22	49	24
	Sidney	22	1	14	2	8	-25	8	- 2	13	5	28	17	46	26
NC	Burwell	26	- 6	16	7	11	-18	--	-22	--	- 3	--	1	--	--
	Valentine	21	-12	9	0	8	-22	5	-24	9	- 1	18	- 1	21	8
NE	Norfolk	19	- 4	14	8	11	- 6	6	-18	6	-13	13	- 4	19	14
	Sioux City	18	-11	17	10	14	1	10	-16	4	-22	8	- 7	14	7
Cen	Grand Island	22	1	23	11	12	-11	10	-19	11	1	13	- 1	22	13
EC	Lincoln	21	8	27	13	13	- 1	14	- 8	9	- 7	12	1	17	15
	Omaha	15	1	18	11	12	3	10	-11	2	- 9	9	- 1	15	12
SW	Imperial	22	7	16	7	10	-25	6	- 5	7	2	25	8	40	15
	North Platte	21	- 1	18	7	12	-22	7	-17	7	2	25	6	31	6

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE